

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A flexible conduit for a breathing circuit comprising:

an inlet,

an outlet,

an enclosing outer wall defining a flexible gases passageway between said inlet and said outlet such that respiratory gases flow through said inlet into said flexible gases passageway and through said outlet, at least a region of said enclosing outer wall being of a material that allows the passage of water vapour without allowing the passage of liquid water or respiratory gases through said enclosing outer wall, said at least a region and said outlet are separate from each other, and

a heater wire ~~located within~~ associated with said passageway, wherein

said flexible conduit is of a type suitable for conveying ~~breathing~~ respiratory gases to or from a patient.

2. (Previously Presented) A flexible conduit as claimed in claim 1, wherein said conduit is an expiratory limb and said heater wire is located in an expiratory flow path of said expiratory limb.

3. (Currently Amended) A flexible conduit as claimed in claim 1, wherein said heater wire lies freely in within said ~~conduit to settle~~ passageway, such that said heater wire settles over at

least some of its length at low points in said ~~conduit~~ passageway where condensed water vapour may collect.

4. (Currently Amended) A flexible conduit as claimed in claim 2, wherein said heater wire
5 lies freely in within said ~~conduit to settle~~ passageway, such that said heater wire settles over at least some of its length at low points in said ~~conduit~~ passageway where condensed water vapour may collect.

5. (Previously Presented) A flexible conduit as claimed in claim 1, wherein said
10 flexible conduit is a coaxial breathing circuit including,

an inner conduit, having said inlet, said outlet and said enclosing outer wall,

an outer conduit, having a second inlet and a second outlet,

said inner conduit located within said outer conduit,

said inlet of said inner conduit and said second outlet of said outer conduit being located

15 at a first end of said flexible conduit, and

said outlet of said inner conduit and said second inlet of said outer conduit being located

at a second end of said flexible conduit, and

said heater wire is located in a space between said inner conduit and said outer conduit.

20 6. (Previously Presented) A flexible conduit as claimed in claim 3, wherein said flexible conduit is a coaxial breathing circuit including,

an inner conduit, having said inlet, said outlet and said enclosing outer wall,

an outer conduit, having a second inlet and a second outlet,
said inner conduit located within said outer conduit,
said inlet of said inner conduit and said second outlet of said outer conduit being located
at a first end of said flexible conduit, and

5 said outlet of said inner conduit and said second inlet of said outer conduit being located
at a second end of said flexible conduit, and

said heater wire is located in a space between said inner conduit and said outer conduit.

7. (Previously Presented) A flexible conduit as claimed in claim 1, further including
10 at least one helically wound polymer tape or strip, part or all of said tape or strip being of a
material that allows the passage of water vapour without allowing the passage of liquid water or
respiratory gases, respective edges of adjacent turns of said tape or strip being adjoining or
overlapping and bonded.

15 8. (Previously Presented) A flexible conduit as claimed in claim 5, further including
at least one helically wound polymer tape or strip, part or all of said tape or strip being of a
material that allows the passage of water vapour without allowing the passage of liquid water or
respiratory gases, respective edges of adjacent turns of said tape or strip being adjoining or
overlapping and bonded.

9. (Previously Presented) A flexible conduit as claimed in claim 7, further including lateral reinforcement against crushing wherein said lateral reinforcement is a helical bead disposed over said adjoining or overlapping edges between turns of said tape or strip.

5 10. (Previously Presented) A flexible conduit as claimed in claim 8, further including lateral reinforcement against crushing wherein said lateral reinforcement is a helical bead disposed over said adjoining or overlapping edges between turns of said tape or strip.